



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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### **STATE AND CITY OFFICIALS CELEBRATE PARK GRANTS**

*Chelsea, Malden, Melrose and Medford to receive \$1.5 Million in Urban Self Help grants*

Massachusetts Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Herzfelder today joined municipal officials from four Metro North communities to celebrate the awarding of nearly \$1.5 million in state Urban Self Help (USH) grants that will be used to upgrade and modernize five community parks.

“One of the best ways to improve quality of life in Massachusetts is to help urban communities design and build better parks and recreation facilities,” said Secretary Herzfelder. “I am excited to be able to help Chelsea, Malden, Melrose and Medford enhance their neighborhoods with these projects.”

Secretary Herzfelder announced \$305,900 for the design and renovation of Chelsea’s Voke Park. Chelsea will also receive \$127,579 in 2005 Phase 2 grants for Mace Playground and \$240,715 in 2005 Phase 2 grants for Quigley Park. Malden and Melrose will receive \$306,250 over two years for the design and construction of Pine Banks Park, which is jointly owned by Malden and Melrose. The City of Medford will receive \$500,000 over two years for the reconstruction of Victory Park.

These grants advance the Romney Administration’s Smart Growth initiative by making significant investments to outdoor recreational facilities where improvements are most needed. State housing, environmental and transportation agencies collectively administer hundreds of millions of dollars in capital spending each year, but have historically done so with little coordination. Under the newly created Commonwealth Capital program, the Romney Administration will now strategically decide how these funds are spent through the Office for Commonwealth Development, investing in projects that meet sustainable development goals.

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Each of these grants advances one or more of the state's three main sustainable development principles: Redevelop First, Restore and Enhance the Environment, and Plan Regionally. Instead of breaking new ground, all grants have been made to improve existing parks. Medford will use its Victory Park grant to restore and enhance the environment by returning a portion of the park to its natural state as a meadow. Consistent with local open space plans and the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, all five parks or playgrounds are part of a regional plan.

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